



2 October 2026

Executive Headteacher Update

There continues to be such a positive atmosphere around school and it has been wonderful to see the children working hard, enjoying their learning and showing all of the qualities that make our school such a special place to be.

This week, we had an important Safeguarding Review as part of Pele Trust's ongoing due diligence checks across our schools. These reviews are an important opportunity to make sure that our safeguarding procedures, policies and practices are being followed consistently and most importantly, that our children feel safe, happy and confident in school.

I am absolutely delighted to say that the review was very positive indeed. As part of the process, the review team spoke with members of staff but most importantly, they spent time talking to our children. This was something that really stood out to Mrs Spurr, one of our Deputy CEOs at the Trust. They were incredibly impressed by just how knowledgeable and accurate the children were when talking about safeguarding and keeping themselves safe.

Our children demonstrated a really strong understanding of online safety, including how to stay safe when using technology and what to do if they ever encounter something that makes them feel uncomfortable. They were also able to talk confidently about friendships, positive relationships and looking after one another, as well as understanding some of the potential dangers within our local community, including those associated with roads and farming.

For me, this feedback is something we should all be incredibly proud of. Safeguarding is not simply about having the right policies and procedures in place; it is about creating a culture where children understand how to keep themselves safe, know who they can talk to and feel confident speaking up when something does not feel right. The feedback from our children showed that this is something they genuinely understand and it is a real reflection of the positive and safe environment we work so hard to create.

We finished the week in the best possible way with our Celebration Assembly and Hot Chocolate with the Head! A huge well done to all of our award winners this week.

Thank you, as always, to our wonderful children, staff and families for your continued support. We have so much to be proud of at Belsay and weeks like this really remind us what a fantastic school community we have.

Mr Shaw

Next week I am planning to be in school on Monday.



Safeguarding

Belsay Primary School is committed to keeping all children safe. Our staff regularly participate in safeguarding training and are fully aware of how to keep our pupils safe and what signs to look out for. Our pupils know they can share any concerns and we have robust policies and procedures in place which underpin safeguarding. It is our paramount priority to keep all children healthy and safe. Remember our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) in school are **Miss Dixon and Miss Houghton**.





Attendance

As parents and carers we want to share our attendance figures because it is you who can make the big difference. Our children are entitled to a full and balanced education and at Belsay we feel we provide one of the best experiences possible.

Current Whole School attendance is 95.6% Our target for Whole School Attendance is 97%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Willow	100%	96%
Maple	100%	95.9%
Alder	100%	96.6%
Oak	95.7%	95.5%

Days of school add up to lost learning						
Days in school	190	186	180	175	171	170
Percentage attendance	100%	98%	95%	92%	90%	<90%
	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Caution	Cause for concern	Serious concern

Absence Procedures if your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please notify us by phone call or email before 9.15am if your child is to be absent, and continue to inform us on a daily basis if they continue to be ill.

We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.55am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.



Classroom updates - Willow class

What a lovely week we have had in Willow Class! We have been exploring the idea that it's OK to be different and talking about all the things that make each of us unique and special. The children have been fantastic at sharing their ideas and noticing the similarities and differences between ourselves and our friends. We have been celebrating what makes us us and reminding ourselves that everyone is wonderfully unique!

We have continued working hard with our phonics this week. The children have been brilliant at joining in with our sounds, practising their Fred Talk and applying what they are learning. It has been fantastic to see how hard everyone is working and how much confidence is already beginning to grow!

In Maths, we have been focusing on the number 2. We have been finding groups of two, recognising the numeral 2 and exploring different ways we can represent the number. The children have enjoyed looking for the number 2 around the classroom and using practical resources to help develop their understanding.

We have been so lucky to enjoy some beautiful September sunshine this week! The children have loved making the most of the warm weather and spending lots of time outdoors with their friends. From running and exploring to playing imaginative games together, there has been plenty of laughter and fun in the sunshine. It has been a lovely way to enjoy the last little bit of summer



Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Houghton



Classroom updates - Maple class

In Maths, Maple Class have been working hard to order and compare numbers, using the symbols for less than, greater than and equal to. Year 1 have begun to recognise and use the number line to help them understand the order and value of numbers, while Year 2 have been consolidating their understanding of the value of tens and ones by applying their knowledge to a range of mastery problems. We have been really impressed with the children's enthusiasm and perseverance as they have tackled some increasingly challenging mathematical problems.

In Art, we have been exploring the work of Vincent van Gogh and discussing how artwork can communicate mood and feelings. We looked closely at the colours used in some of his most famous paintings and considered how these colours made us feel. The children then used crayons and coloured pencils to practise creating colour transitions, moving from dark to light. In after school Art Club, the children completed their mixed-media Autumn Owl projects. They were incredibly proud of their finished pieces and could see how the skills they had developed over the past three weeks had helped them to gradually build towards a fantastic final outcome.



Mrs Landreth



Classroom updates- Alder class

It's been another fantastic week of learning in Alder Class.

We have continued our *Light and Dark* topic in English, where we have been diving into non-fiction and learning all about information texts. The children have done a fantastic job in researching facts to put under headings and drawing accurate diagrams explaining how light reflects with detailed captions. We have now planned and started drafting our final information text reports! I wonder if the children can share any fascinating facts with you at home.

In Maths, we have been building on our place value knowledge this week by comparing, sorting and ordering numbers with great confidence. Our continued focus on place value is giving us a strong foundation for moving on to addition and subtraction.

Within music, we have been sharpening our sense of rhythm and the flow of the beat, getting ourselves ready to use our recorders more frequently starting next week! Our focus in French this week was learning how to tell the time and practicing to pronounce (or keep silent!) the "h" in some French words.

On Thursday, the children enjoyed spending time with Year 5 and 6 and having a morning of PSHE. They focused on exploring different stereotypes and discussing meaningful ways we can be more inclusive of everyone. We ended the week with our art block - reviewing the techniques we used to make pinch pots and exploring the difference between 2D and 3D shapes to make our clay reliefs.

It was lovely to see so many of our class playing Stone Age games on the yard over the last few weeks. They really have taken to our history topic.

Well done for a great week Alder Class. We can't wait for more fun learning next week.

Mrs Aynsley and Mrs Rutter





Classroom updates - Oak class

Another fantastic week in Oak Class with plenty of hard work and enthusiasm across the curriculum! In English, we have been working towards completing our biographies of Thomas Barnardo. The children have been developing their understanding of biographical writing including chronological order, third-person writing, formal language and factual information. We have also explored how time adverbials and carefully chosen vocabulary can help produce informative and engaging biographies. In Maths, we have begun exploring addition with exchanging. Using concrete resources and pictorial representations, the children have been developing their understanding of the exchanging process before progressing to formal written methods. Year 5 have been tackling five-digit calculations while Year 6 have been working with six-digit numbers. Our focus has been on calculations requiring just one exchange to build confidence and reinforce place value.

Science made a rare Friday appearance this week! We have been investigating reversible changes and exploring how certain materials can undergo changes before returning to their original state.

In RE, we have continued exploring how Christians understand God and how these beliefs influence the way they pray. We considered how viewing God as holy, loving and forgiving can shape Christian prayer and worship. This week, we explored the fascinating life and achievements of Queen Victoria. The children investigated her remarkable reign and discussed some of the significant changes that took place in Britain during the Victorian era.

Finally, an enormous well done to our wonderful Year 6 children who represented Belsay at their Sports Leaders Training. Their enthusiasm, behaviour and willingness to get involved were absolutely fantastic. They were a real credit to themselves and the school. We couldn't be prouder! As always, thank you for your continued support. Have a lush weekend with your families and we look forward to another fantastic week in Oak Class!



Mr. McLeod

Friday Flyer



Dates for your Diary

Events could be subject to change and will be communicated if required

Date	Time	
Friday 16th October	9am	Harvest festival performance
Thursday 22nd October	3.15pm	Halloween Disco
Friday 23rd October	3.15pm	School closed for half term
Monday 2nd November	All day	Teacher training day
Tuesday 3rd November	8.45am	School reopens to pupils
Friday 20th November	All day	Flu immunisations for all children
Thursday 10th December		Christmas lunch
Friday 11th December	2pm	Christmas Nativity performance
Wednesday 16th December	9am	Christmas Panto at Tyne Theatre
Friday 18th December	1pm	School closes for Christmas holidays
Monday 4th January	8.45am	School reopens to pupils



Friday Flyer

BELSAY



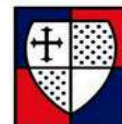
BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Every Monday (during term time)
in the school hall • 10am - 11am

Come along to a relaxed
and friendly group

EVERYONE WELCOME

£2.50 PER FAMILY



JOIN US FOR HALLOWEEN FUN

PTA HALLOWEEN

DISCO

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2026
15.15 - 16:45 PM
£6 PER CHILD
HOTDOG, SNACK & JUICE PROVIDED.

Payments to: 'Friends of Belsay'
Sort - 30-93-55
Acc - 01735759

Featuring



Please see Class Dojo for the Google form